Animal
ACADEMY
はこぶね白書
HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO
5
MOYAMU FUJINO

はこぶね
HAKOBUNE
HAKUSH
MUYAMU FUJ

Animal Academy: Hakobune Hakusho Volume 5
Created by Moyamu Fujino

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Volume 5
by
MOYAMU FUJINO

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Report.20
A Lukewarm Reception

Art Room
This is a place for creating art, not hiding out!
Okay, that's it!
You're just distracting us in here!
Art club member, Silvina
There's a ball of fur in front of the art room, crying...
Sob Sob
Miiko? Something wrong?
Get over it, or get out!

What's the matter, Ume-chan?
びくっ
Um... It's just...
Th-that's... not what I... wanted...
?
?
ポロポロ
What happened...?
She seemed fine yesterday.
Er...
Knock it off, will you, Miiko?
.....
.....
.....
ぴくっ

It's really not...
I-I didn't...
Um?
?
.....
Sob
Sob
I don't know what's wrong, Ume-chan...
...but cheer up! We'll help you.
Oh, hey!
Have you seen Sasuke-kun?
//
twitch

Too bad. I wanted to have a word with him.
"A word"?
Uh huh.
I haven't ...
.....
.....
...word...
A...

"Forbid-
den...
...love."
?
トン

Poof
"A hot couple" ...?
N-no!
It's nothing, honest!
Fune?
What's it say?
Oh, right.
The first years can't read yet...

.....
This is...
Er...
Um... It's just...!
.....

What're you guys doing? It's time for class.
Morning, Fukuta-san!
Huh?
.....
Oh, it's that article.
Yusuke-kun...
Good luck with my brother!
Nice to meet you.
Kamaba-san?
I heard rumors, but I can't believe they actually printed it.
Wha--?

.....
But you know, I think she's little too good for Sasuke...
I wonder what she was going to say?
Oh!
場

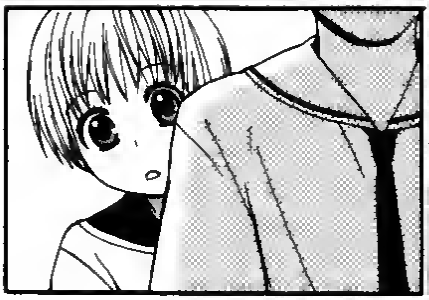
...I always figured he'd fall for you, Fukuta-san.
Actu-ally...
Wh-why would you say that?!
Just a hunch.
.....
Right, but why...?

But we didn't know.
Sounds like everybody knows about it now.
Yeah.
True...
Every-one?
White-1
Or rather, kind of out of character for those two.
It's so bizarre.
I got teased for not knowing even though I'm in their same class.
Everyone take your seats!
They both keep to themselves so much.
Hmm...
.....

Sasuke-kun really doesn't talk to people much...
...and he's not all that friendly.
He's mysterious in lots of ways.
How did he end up here?
And why?

badum
!
"Fukuta-san..."
.....
ﾒﾝ

Listen up!
I have an announce-ment to make.



"What do you think of when I say 'snake'?"

This morning the journalism club ran an article about Kamaba and Sasuke.
To be honest, I'd heard some rumors about them myself, but...

...Kamaba says this is the first she's heard about it, and she's very upset.
You guys need to tone it down.
I've already talked to the Journalism Club
Normally I'd encourage you all to work something like this out on your own, but it seems to be getting out of hand.
...you should talk to the people involved, not spread gossip.
My point is...
I know Kamaba and Sasuke are very quiet.

So the article was a lie?
Seems that way.
Oh...
.....
Just so you know ... ...the journalism club didn't make it up.
Yeah, right.
Nagao, raise your hand if you have a comment.
.....
What's the problem? The article was popular.
We just wrote what everybody already knew.
Well, that's what we assumed.
Isn't the whole point for us to write about things everyone's interested in?
But Kamaba-san says it's not true.
Well, maybe she's *lying*.
If it's not true, how did the rumor spread so far?
Where there's smoke, there's fire.

Just because your relationship's unusual doesn't mean you have to hide it, Kamaba-san.
.....
Is it that "mass psychology" thing?
Hey, now!
That ...
That's not...
It's...
It's n-not...
Something's ...
... strange.
I don't like this.
You're a little awkward, so maybe you slipped up and dropped a hint to someone.

?
What's going on...?
ガタッ
What is it?
This is stupid.

There's nothing going on between me and Kamaba-san.
You guys all know that! We're in the same class.
Rumors are just rumors. If you can't fix it, then just write a new article that says it was a mistake or we broke up or something.
That's what I think, Sensei.
Oh..
Huh?
Right.
Will that...
... work?
.....

So it wasn't true, after all.
What's the big deal, Sasuke?
"Phew"?
Seize the moment! You should go out with her for real!
Kamaba's cute, and she's nice.
Hey, what're you saying?!
Just go for it!
You're a cat and she's a raccoon, but you'd be a cute couple.
What?
Look at 'em!
Wouldn't they be perfect together?
Um ...!
They should go out.
They'd be cute together.
Yeah, you're right.
Go out with her! Go out with her!

Kiss her!
What does that mean?
Huh? "Kiss"?
Where'd you kids learn that?
Come on, now--
Yeah, do it!
Be a couple!
.....

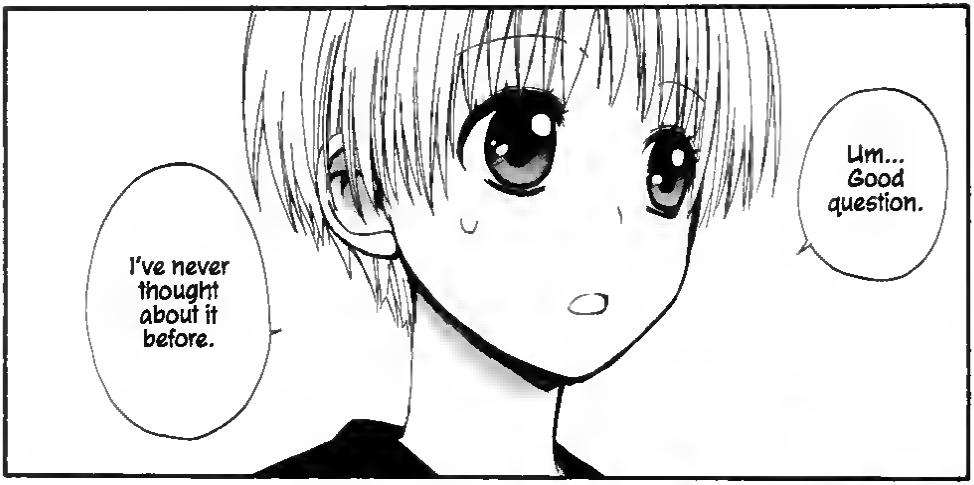
Hang on--
Go out!
Go out! ♪
Every-one be quiet!
ガラ

Is Sasuke mad?
Yeah... I think so.
!
Huh ...?

murmur
murmur
Hey!
Wh-whoa!
NOOOO-!!!

She said, "No."
.....
Ha
Oh...
Um...
It just... startled me.
Fukuta-san?
You okay?
Huh?!

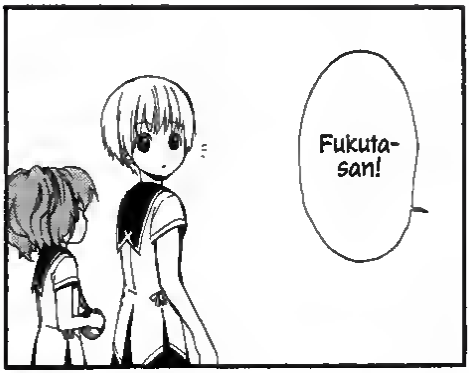
Ume-chan's slap was louder than any Miiko had ever delivered.
Half of the class was so surprised that their transformations broke.
.....
Would it be weird if I liked somebody who wasn't a cat like me?
Hmm?
Fune.
Apparently it was so loud that students all through the school heard it!
That was fast
They posted the new article about the break-up right over the old one


Um... Good question.
I've never thought about it before.

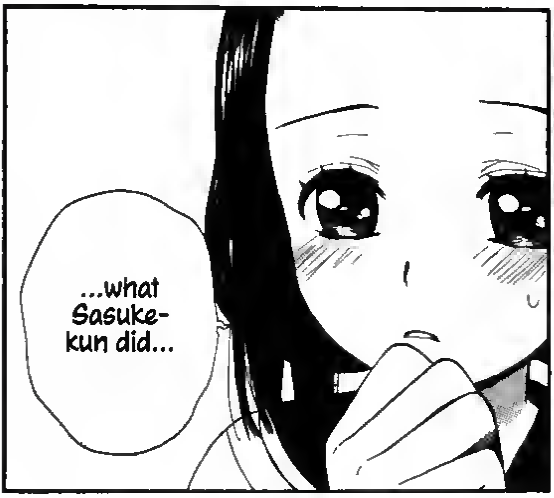
Oh! Miiko, don't tell me you and...
Gasp!

...Kotaro are--
Miiko! ♡

It just wasn't meant to be.
SLAP
Advisor Room
Rumors are dangerous.
Isn't it amazing how information spreads?
Use
Nah, that's completely one-sided.
So there aren't any articles about Kotaro and Suzuhara?
ABCDE
FGHIJK
LMNOP
QRSTU
VWXYZ
I need to talk to you.
Usuu!
Even if a rumor is true, you have to realize that it affects different people in different ways.
That's the group dynamic


Fukuta-san!

Ume-chan...


...what Sasuke-kun did...

Um... I could be wrong about this...
I could be wrong, but...

I mean ...
...it wasn't like him at all.
But there's no way I can ask him, so...
That
You mean *that*?
Uh huh.
I...think he did it on purpose.
.....
Hmm?
What is it, Miiko-san?
Huh?
So... Um...
Same here.
That's not something I would've expected Sasuke-kun to do, but...

I figured Kamaba-san would make it clear she wasn't interested.
Sorry.
Yeah-- that was all I could think of.
You don't need to apologize to me.
Oh! No!
So we shouldn't talk too much.
Nagao-kun...
Still?
By the way, the journalism club's keeping an eye on me.
I doubt they'll write another article for a while, but they could still gossip.
Um...
!
See you.
I feel like I dragged everyone into this.
Uh, really...?
Called Out

Oh!
She wanted me to thank you!

White-1
?
She did, didn't she?
Mrrgh!

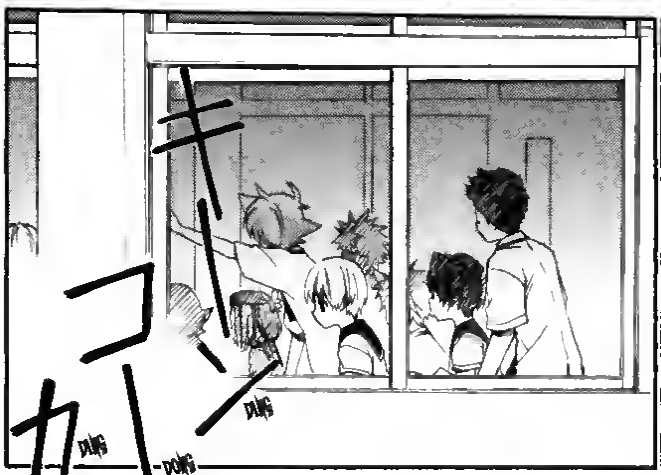
MU
9/4 BA
6/29 NE
Reira 4/1 TE
Kotoko 3/2 BB
Koyanagi 9/5 HA
SIGH...
Sigh...

Report.21 Yusuke's Melancholy

I've decided that today is the last day that I will strive to be human
Thanks for everything.
Whaaaat?!
White-1
Huh? How come?
You're quitting school, Usuu?
Thi...
.....
Cause of the journalism club?
This sure is sudden!

No!
Is it because of that article?
But why...?
This is what she chose to do.
This sucks!
Then, then--

I wonder ...
...what hap-pened?

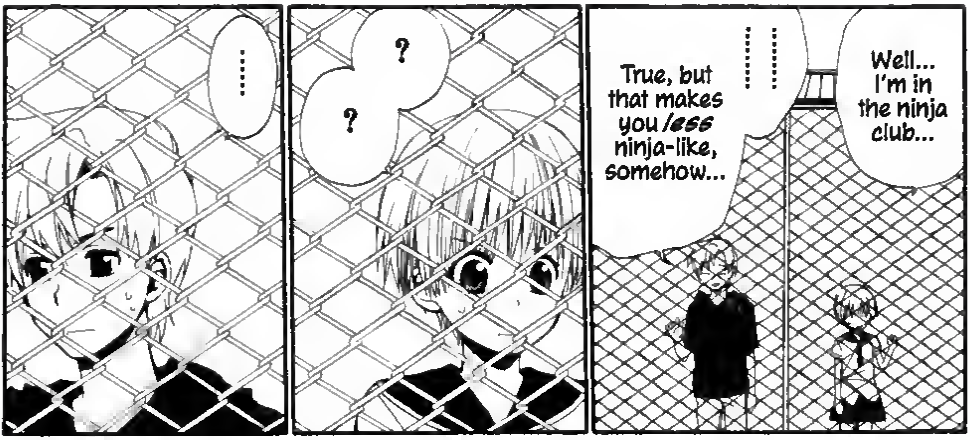

キーン
カーン
DING
-DONG

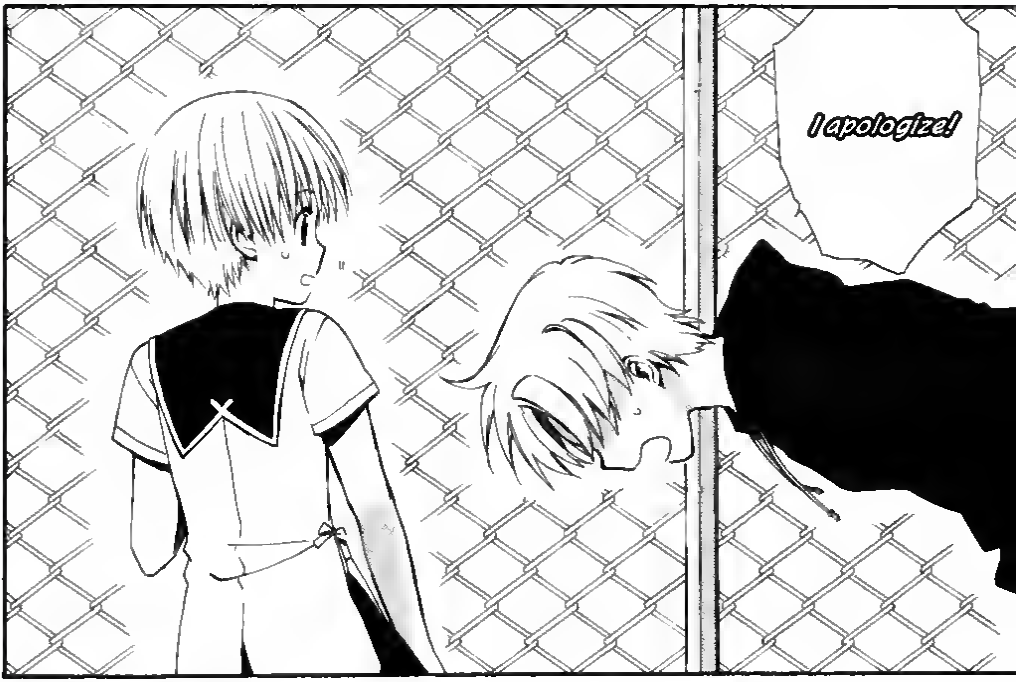
I've never actually talked to Wakaba Usuu.
She was always so quiet.

Miiko!
Go on ahead! I'm going to the bathroom.
Okay.
Sensei's probably in the faculty room...
He said it's not because of the article, but what is it?
What if it's like what happened with Takuma-kun...?
Oh!
Watanuki-sensei!
Fukuta.
Excuse me--
Good timing.
Huh?
Do you have a minute?

I have something important to talk to you about.
Er...
Something important...?
.....
Remember the book I gave you when you got here?
Fukuta.
Yes?!
Uh ...
Um ...
Mrgh.
How should I ask him...?

Marimari Handbook
Um. Yes?
You...
...haven't read much of it, have you?
!!!
He caught me!
I'm sorry!
But I swear flipped through it a couple of times!
No, I'm not accusing you of anything...
So you're...
...not a ninja, then?

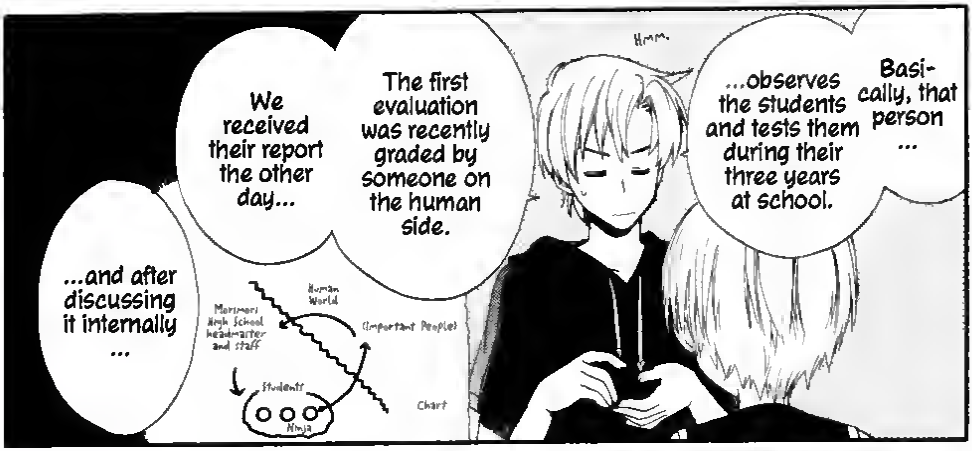

.....
?
?
Well... I'm in the ninja club...
.....
True, but that makes you *less* ninja-like, somehow...


I apologize!

That book is supposed to automatically go to the human it's meant for...
...but it appears you're not that person.
?

That means ...
...I was supposed to give it to someone else.
It was my mistake. I'm sorry.
There's supposed to be...
...a human here who keeps an eye on all the students.
That person gathers information on them...
How should I explain this...?
.....?
.....

There's supposed to be a human here who fills that role!
...and relays it to those in the outside world.

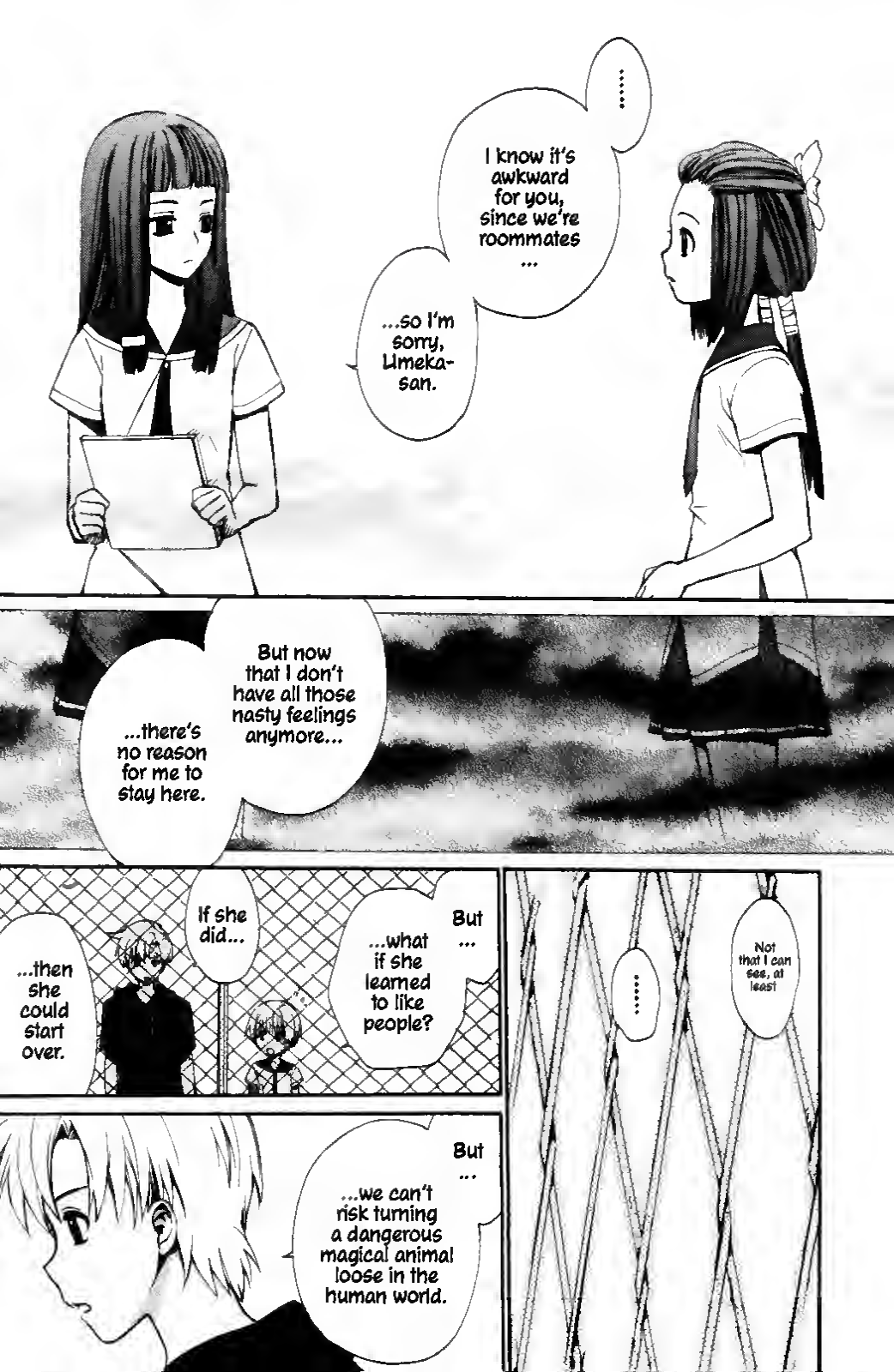

Basically, that person ...
Hmm.
...observes the students and tests them during their three years at school.
The first evaluation was recently graded by someone on the human side.
We received their report the other day...
...and after discussing it internally ...
Human World
Important People
Morimori High School headmaster and staff
Students
Ninja
Chart

...we knew we had to let Wakaba Usuu go.

Um...
Wakaba-san...
Um...
Why...?
Oh, right. I don't really have anything to take with me

Why are you ...
... quitting?
N-no... I mean...
Because I'm going to be a normal raccoon again.
Because ...
...I hate humans.
But Morimori doesn't have--
I wanted to figure out why I hated them.
That's the only reason...
...I enrolled here in the first place.
So I hid how I felt and studied with the rest of you.

But then Sensei called me on it.
My secret got out somehow ...
...so I talked to him.
We talked for a long time.
I feel a lot better now.
Weird, huh?
I only just realized ...
...that there was no way I could ever really like anyone here, since you're all trying to become human.
.....
I've always been that way
.....
What'll you do now...?


I know it's awkward for you, since we're roommates ...
...so I'm sorry, Umeka-san.
But now that I don't have all those nasty feelings anymore...
...there's no reason for me to stay here.
But ...
...what if she learned to like people?
If she did...
...then she could start over.
But ...
...we can't risk turning a dangerous magical animal loose in the human world.
Not that I can see, at least

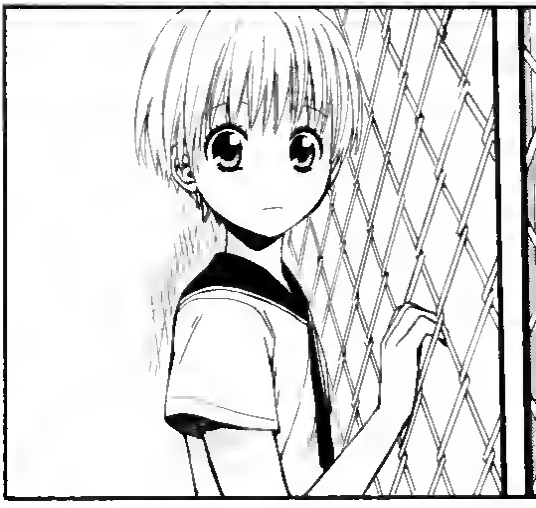
When students feel that way...
...the headmaster can take away their negative feelings along with their ability to transform.
That never even occurred to me...
"I can forget about all this?"
Our headmaster has lived a very, very long time...
...and has remarkable powers.
"That's what I want, then."
So Usuu really will go back to being a normal raccoon.

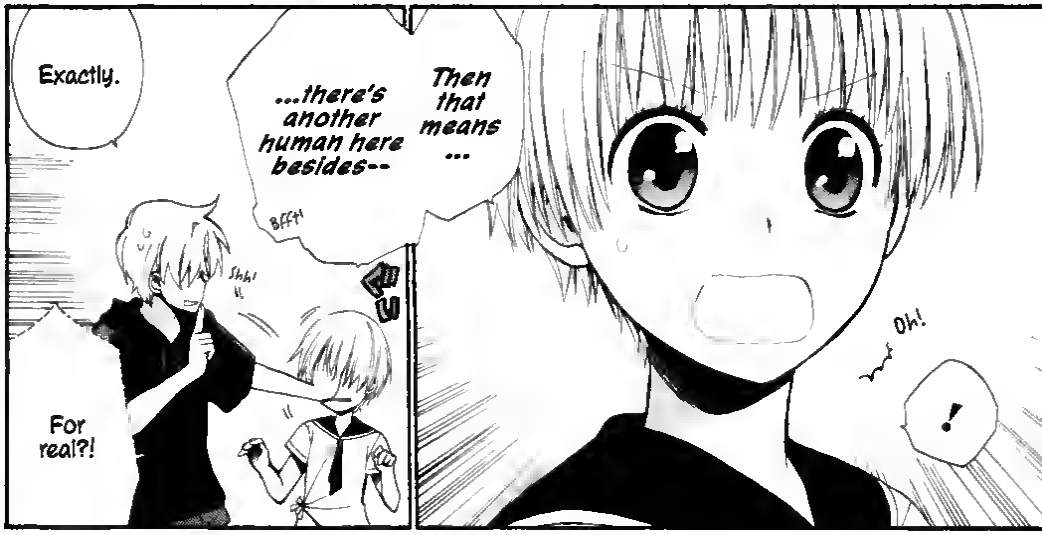
That's... really sad, huh?
.....
Yeah.
But...
...that's the choice she made.

Right...
That's what they decided.
Judging by your reaction to what I told you...
...it looks like I was right.
Huh?
MORIMORIGITEN
盛木
This book is meant for a human...
...who's a student here.
That person will spend their three years...
...carrying out a secret task.

It's a very important role.
Most of the teachers don't even know about it.

Right.
It really is, huh?
Wow ...
Just like a ninja!
Er...
Um...




Exactly.
...there's another human here besides--
Then that means ...
BFFT!
Shh!
For real?!
Oh!
!

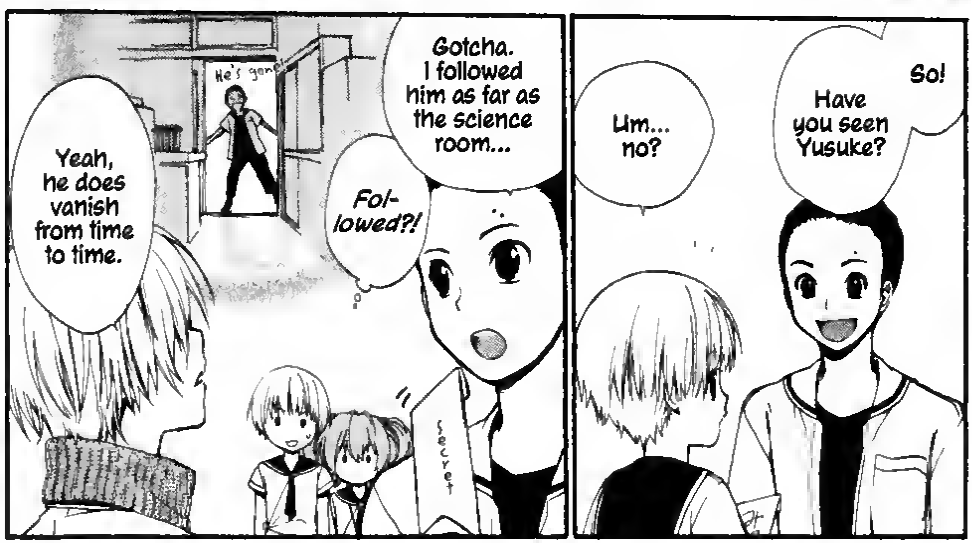
I wonder who it is...
.....
After hearing all that...
...I realized just how little I know.
Ninjas really do exist!
So bring the book back, okay?
Wow!
Fune!!!
Miiko?
What's wrong? Kotaro again?
You startled me!
I-I was...so scared...

Gaahhh!
So darling...!
She's so cute--!
Pr-President Uesugi...?
C'mon, it's just me!
What's with the grin?
So creepy!
I told you to watch out.
Manjiro's a crazy cat fanatic.
You really ought to stay transformed around him.

poof
.....
Suzuhara, transform back.
Not a chance.
You should drop your transformation too, Zenda!
Vice-Prez
.....
You should practice more so it's easier for you to change.
Oh!
And learn to hold your transformation for longer.
It'll help you keep this weirdo at bay.
I'll try harder...
.....

Don't scare our club members off!
Heh! I couldn't help it.

Thanks!
Here's your secret message.
Oh!
Is that really necessary?
Secret
A real ninja wouldn't join it...
The ninja club is just a club.


He's gone.
Yeah, he does vanish from time to time.
Gotcha. I followed him as far as the science room...
Fol-lowed?!
Secret
So!
Have you seen Yusuke?
Um... no?

The Morimori handbook...
Oh!
Yusuke-kun...
.....
"Watch out for Yusuke."
"He's a good liar."
Watch out...
Isn't he...
Huh?
But...

...a cat...?
バサッ
バサ
バサ
Got it.
I'll take it from here.

A ball?
Soft
ガサ
Hup!
スッ
Oh, Kotaro-kun. Figures.
.....
Do I know you...?
Soft
I'm nobody.
Here's your ball.
Soft

SIIP?
GRAB

BOYS/
GIRLS
Hey!
Hey, Sa-suke!
Do anything newsworthy lately?
No?
Oh, just the bath-room...
Boys/
Girls

It was you!
You're the guy who was there that time!
What was that for?

When Yuichi fell from the third floor!
You were up there with him!
"That time" ...?
What, are you saying I pushed him?
.....
Wanna hit me again?
.....
I was surprised when he quit school, too.

I, um... Sorry 'bout that...
I...I wasn't thinking straight.
.....
ガオ

Yusuke ...
You didn't do anything, did you?
You know each other?
We're brothers.
Can't you tell?
Oops!
!
They're looking for you back there, Kotaro-kun.
Hey! Sasuke!
Don't mind him, Kotaro-kun. Just get back to your game.
.....
We're the best of friends!
.....

Did I "do anything"?
You make me sound like some kind of criminal.
Be-cause you're Yusuke.
I only wanted you and Fukuta-san to leave the school. But you already knew that, right, Sasuke?
Eh?..
I'm not leaving.
No matter what.

I've had enough of you!

Being twins is such a pain!
If you'd just changed your name, we could've at least pretended to be strangers.
Can't you do it? What, are you worried that things'll go badly if they find out I'm human?
Do you get your kicks from getting in people's way?

You're nothing, Sasuke!
!
Oh!
I really found you two!

W-
wait...
What
does this
mean...?
Which
one of
you...
...is
the real
ninja?

The Morimori handbook...
MORIMORIGITEN
盛森
It haven't looked at it in a while
It makes me so nervous...
Hey, it has blank pages...
...hmm?
BLANK
BLANK
There it goes...
!

Human Candidates

Neko Fukuta
Sasu
Yu

Boom…
スゥ…

Report.22 Patchwork Sinner

"There's supposed to be a human here who keeps a close eye on all the students. That person gathers information on them..."
"...and relays it to those in the outside world."
Who's the ninja...?
Human Candidates
Neko Fukuta
Sasuke Sagami
Yusuke Sagami
You're joking, right?

Good one, Fukuta-san!
.....
Oh, this?
It's got nothing...
Hmm? What's that book?
R-right...
Heh..
Is this about the club? I thought we were off today.
...to do with the club...
GRIP
FORGOTTEN

!!
Sasuke-ku--
Cut it out, Sasuke!
I'll kick your butt, you bastard!

You're not safe here!
MORIMORI GI TEN
盛森
!!
Run and find a teacher!
Fukuta-san!
Oh!
But...
Speaking of teachers...
...I'm supposed to return this book!
Hurry up!

Sasuke, you little punk! "Not safe"?
Hey!
MORIMORIGIRL
And whose fault is that?!
I'll make sure you can't ever disobey me again.
It's not safe?
Why not?!

Hold on--if Yusuke-kun or Sasuke-kun...
...is this ninja person...
...then should I have given the book to them?
I could've told Sensei about it later...
"Fukuta-san..."
"...what's the Morimori handbook?"
Huh? But then...
Is he...
"This black cat led me here."
"That's him there!"

Is Sasuke-kun human...?!
But then...
Um... Sasuke-kun...?
...then this black cat in front of me is...
If he's not a cat...
...then...

Please...
...say something...
...Sasuke-kun!
Hey!
Come back!

Wait!
Where are you--

!!
Aaahh!
Fukuta-san!
Why did you come ba--
.....
Oh!

I really am sorry.
THUMP
Wh-wha--?
Sorry!
Don't move, no matter what.
Stay down.
"I'll protect you."
.....

They're different people.
So it's true.
Sasuke-kun isn't the black cat.
!!
……?
!
Ahhh! I'm sorry --!

Fukuta-san--!
.....
Wha...
What are you doing?

POKI
Oh, butt out!
Whatever it is, stop it! It looks dangerous!
Hey!
You really get on my nerves.
I'm all right, Fukuta-san.
It's just a brotherly fight.
Wha?!
You could really hurt him!
This is absolutely not all right!

Look, Fukuta-san.
Where's the book now?
Are you guys trying to mess with me?
I know it's your fault the book is in the wrong hands!
This whole thing is ridiculous.
Does that mean...
...you're the one who's supposed to have it, Yusuke-kun?
Oh, right!
I came back to give it to you two, but...
Huh?
It-It's gone! I must've dropped it somewhere! I'm so sorry!
.....

Stop interfering, Sasuke!
I've had...
...enough of you!

!
H-
Headmas--

ぽんっ
……！
すとん……

You idiot!
.....
Giten...
What?
That... that was...
That was super dangerous! He could've died!
MORIMORI GITEN
The snake...
It was that little snake...
I get it now.

Little Snake was...inside the book.
That's what it was.
I'm sorry...I'm not the one who should have you.
I'm sorry I was so scared...!
Oh... I failed so many exams...
No schools accepted me.
But I got into Morimori, and...
I swear I'm not hiding anything!
The book had so much stuff in it I could barely read it.
And...
...be-sides...

...I really love Morimori!
Is it really wrong...
...for me to be here?
I...
.....

My mission is to infiltrate the school, and stay hidden for a given time.
I couldn't imagine that having irregulars here, non-mission-related humans, would be anything but a problem.
So I panicked.
What happened to Yuichi Takuma, and those rumors about Umeka Kamaba ...
I did those things to drive you guys out and to get hold of this book.
I've already made my report to the outside world, and there'll be an announcement soon.
I'm not the one who decides whether you can stay here or not.
But when I said you didn't have to suffer by forcing yourself to be here...
...I meant it.

I...
I'm fine.
.....
But thank you!
I'm totally fine.
You never do what I expect, do you?
But at least now I know...
...why it insists on staying with you.
Morimori Giten, that is. GHEE-ten, as in "apocrypha."
You were reading it wrong...
Can't you read English letters?
MORIMORIGITEN
盛森

Yusuke ...
You knew too?!
You could've told her, Sasuke...
You really are dense, Fukuta-san.
Nope. I guess it got its name confused along with its proper master.
..... Huh?! It's not pronounced "jiten"? For handbook?
Well...
I can't really talk, can I?
I was pretty stupid too.
The next day...
...I realized Yusuke-kun had vanished.
ORIGITEN

He'd created a lot of trouble-- and a lot of excitement-- but...
...I didn't expect him to just leave like that.
Listen, Fukuta-san.
Yusuke always calls me stupid too, so don't worry about it.
That's just how he is.
I think he enjoys looking down on people.
So I had fun messing with him, honestly.
That's not why I enrolled here, though.
I see...
But he's actually...
...talking about him like a brother...
Fukuta-san...
I'm sorry for getting you caught up in all this.
It felt like...
...I was seeing his human side for the first time.

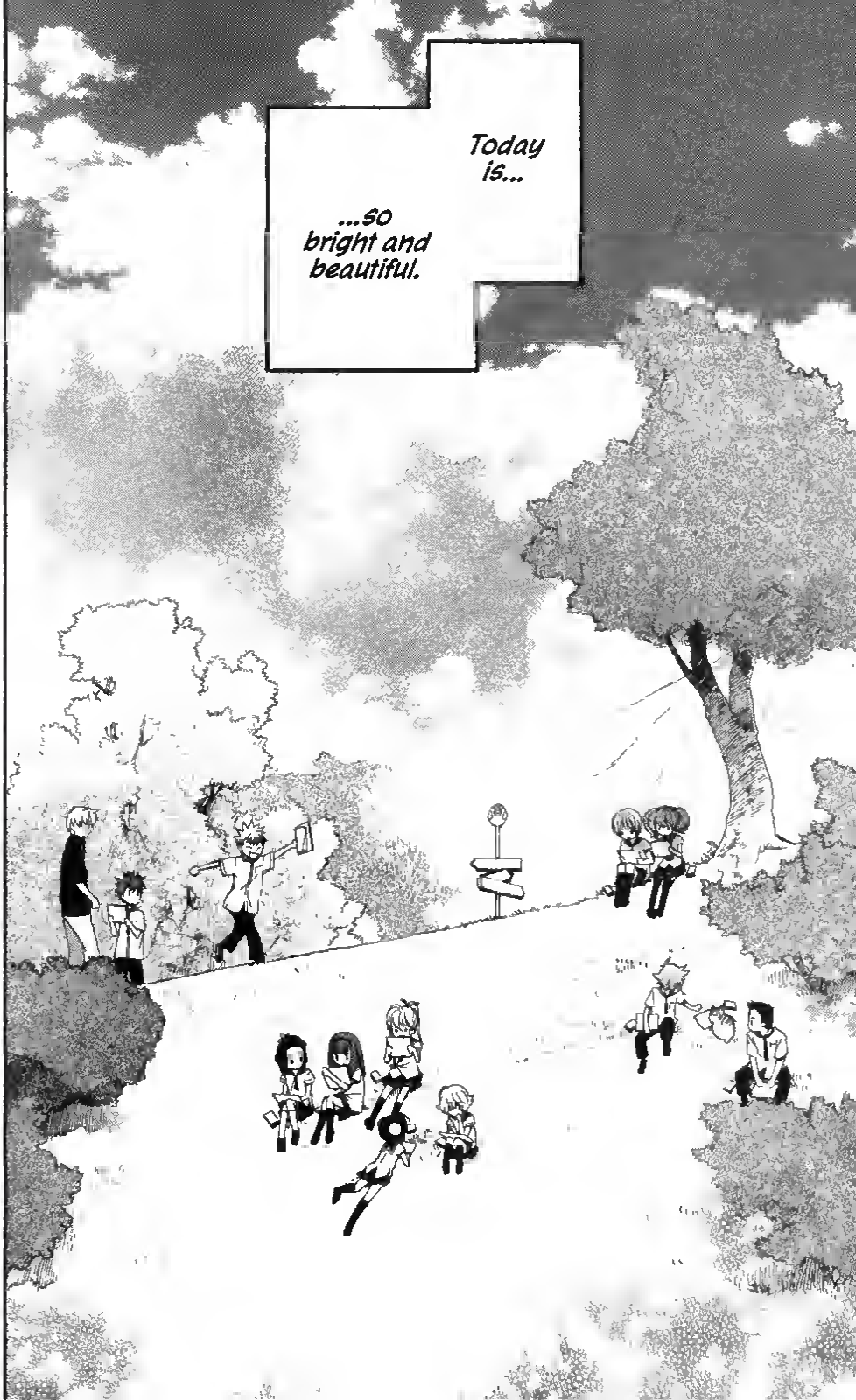
I wonder if Sasuke-kun also came here because this was the only high school he could get into?
So I'm not the only one.
Maybe he said he'd protect me 'cause he knew we were in the same boat?
weak logic
.....
Doesn't that matter to him anymore?
I want to ask, but I can't...
Watanuki-sensei!
Take this seriously.
People will be able to tell.
Right-- this is my first time sketching.
(Supposedly.)
I haven't used crayons in a long time
Isn't that a bit lifeless?
Ack!

Wow!
.....
Ugh, this picture's awful.
But it's the thought that counts!
There!
I can't concentrate
That's so pretty, Miiko.
It's so cheerful and artistic.
It's pretty?
What's this line here?
A bridge of light.
You mean a rainbow?
Uh huh.
It's beautiful.
Yeah!

Isn't it?
Hee hee!
Oh...
It's been a while...
...since I've seen Miiko smile.

.....
Stinky
The way the crayons smell doesn't bother you?
That's great!

Blush
You're adorable, Miiko!
I wish I could draw today's sky exactly the way it is.


Today is...
...so bright and beautiful.

A few days later...
I'm back!
Welcome back, Yusuke-kun.
I got chewed out, but they finally decided they can't do this without me.
No hard feelings! ★
Miiko, do you still not like him?
I hate him!
Sasuke, I'm back!
Hey! No need to look so disgusted!

How is that possible?
Am I seeing things? Is that really...
No way...
5. Takahiko Nagao
They got higher grades than me...
4. Toko Kotoko
3. Neko Fukuta
2. Umako Koyanagi
DOOOOM
Fune?

Report.23 The Eternal Name

Ha
You're kidding! You've actually been trying to get good grades?!
I thought you'd have to try to get those questions wrong!
ha
ha
ha!
Yusuke-kun... Could you stop insulting me all the time? It kinda hurts...
Huh? When do I insult you?
I'm a close-mouthed guy.
Burning Club
Fukuta-san, you really are...
Nah, never mind.
.....
STUPID
Ninja
I just wish I were a lot smarter...
Since when...?
.....

What can I do to get smarter?
I think what matters is if you enjoy the class or not.
That's a "smart person" answer, Yusuke-kun...
Who, me? I'm... Ha ha!
You should ask Sasuke! He's the one who's always studying.
.....
So he's a hard worker?
I haven't really talked to Sasuke-kun much since then...
But...
Huh? You haven't?

I really like how honest you are. I never have to worry about you tricking me!
Well, here's the thing!
I'm not sure that's a compliment...
Really?
I thought you two were buddies.
Did I say that out loud?!
?
It's great that it updates automatically, but so far I can't control it like you could at all.
Is there some kind of trick to it?
PSST
So, about Giten...

I'm so nervous...
I wonder why I'm here...?
Should I be kneeling like this?
I didn't even see the headmaster's face when I first got here.
This is a secret but...
...just the other day I got called out in between classes
Huh?
The headmaster wants to see me?!
What for?!
Neko Fukuta-san.
Raise your head.
Huh?
When did--

Li...
Little Snake...?

Really ?!
すぐ。
Little Snake-- I mean, Giten-san? You're the head-master?!
.....

I am the headmaster, yes, but I am not Giten.
Therefore, your conclusion is incorrect.
But the other day--
Hush!
Giten is part of me, but it is not my name.
Watch, and I will show you.
スッ

Hair ...?
Now, what do you see?

What the heck?
I created him just now, in order to show you.
Let's see. His name is...
...Shiden.
Shiden...
Yes. I am the head-master.
I am neither Shiden nor Giten.
Neko Fukuta-san...
...I've looked forward to speaking with you.

You're quite honest, Neko Fukuta-san.
Er... Well, um...
Are you nervous?
Tea
Sweets
Wh-what's going on...?
Well, it's... fine...
Oh! Um...
So, how do you like school?
Huh?
And how are you enjoying school, Fune-san?
"Fukuta" and "Neko" combine to become "Fune"...
Oh! Well, you asked the same thing twice ...
Your answer has changed.
I'm having a lot of fun.

That should have been your first answer.
.....
Right ...
I guess so.
What's ...
May I ask you an odd question?
Sure.
Your name is Fune-san.
Your cat friend gave you that name.
If "Fune" were the only name by which you were called, what would you do?

It's just a name...
What would I do...?
Fune.
Fune?
Huh?
.....
!
Fune-san.
...Fune-san...
Tell me...
...for decades, or even for centuries?
What if everyone forgot your name...

...how confident would you be about who you truly are?
.....

I...don't know.
.....
I see.
If you don't know...
...then you shouldn't go around giving things new names.
"splat"?
...stuff...
SPLAT
The head-master...
...says weird...

Oh no! I-I'm sorry!
Sweets
Are you okay?!
Yes. Look.
All clean.
S-sorry. I was zoning out...
Yes, you do need to strengthen your perception.
I know that...
...you helped Giten when he was injured.
You're a kind girl.
I also know that you tripped over Giten when you tried to escape.

But you see, I never intended for it to transform into other things, or to write anything but the simple truth.
It was never meant to deal with emotions. Or doubts.
Yikes...
Great--the headmaster knows I tried to leave the school.
Neko Fukuta-san...
...don't arbitrarily give things new names.
She's talking about "Little Snake"...

GULP
PLOP
I'm sorry.
Not to worry.
How sweet.
.....
S-so, Head-master ...
What's *your* name?

I am the head-master.
Just as I have always been.

Shiden happily ate the sweets that got on the headmaster's hand...
...so I couldn't help feeling like the headmaster ate Little Snake.
But I couldn't ask about it.
I can't really explain why, but...
...for some reason I was scared.
.....

Are you listening? If you don't understand, say so!
Don't want your brain to explode.
Um... is that supposed to make me feel...
... better?
Hey! My ear!
FUU
Isn't this a fun little game?
Fune-san, Fune-san...!
Hey!
Gack!
Let's go over there!
Fune!
Look, you'd better not blow your cover for real!
If you do, I'll report that you were trying to interfere with my mission.
Don't you dare say something stupid like "what do you mean?"

Got it...
Everybody might panic if they found out there're humans here.
Fune!
C-Coming!
.....
About this--
ガ
See ya!
Hate him!
I hate him sooo much!
Ha ha! Miiko-chan's just the cutest thing!
EEEEK!!!

Well...
I wouldn't say that, exactly, but--
Fune, do you like him?
Why wouldn't I?
You hate him more all the time...
...do you like Sasuke-kun?
Then...
!

Mliko! Is that the first time you've ever said his name?
Or... anyone else's name, for that matter?
It sure seems like you do.
Now I know Sasuke-kun's human, but...
...that's really all I know.
I wish we could talk more.
I want to find out more about what he's like.

I wonder what he's up to...
Fune, if you like Sasuke-kun...
Wh-what?
...then ...
...we're kind of the same, huh?
.....?
We are?
Uh huh! If you both become humans, you can be together forever!
Just like how if I become human...
...I can be with Teruo!
Just thinking about it makes me so happy--!

I'm in a really good mood, so...
...I'll tell you, Fune!
Oh, right!
Um, Miiko...
...who's Teruo?
Teruo is...
...the most special person in the world to me!
.....

So you want to become human because of him?
Yup!
She's so cute.
I have Teruo's most important possession in here.
You do?
I feel bad for Kotaro, but Miiko's so cute when she's in love...
Hang on-- if it's the most important thing he owns, shouldn't he have it?
It's fine! He left it behind.
Oh?
Since it's you, Fune, I'll show you!

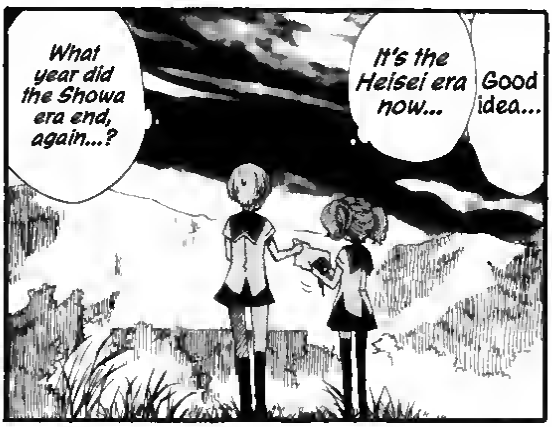
Faculty Room
Excuse me! I brought the gym key back!
Hey, Watanuki-sensei!
Hi, Kotaro.
Whatcha doing?
Oh.
Don't look.
It's for tomorrow's class.
What're we studying?
Hmm... Well...
It's something basic that every human knows...
...but it's very significant.
Make sure you get back to your dorm for supper and bedtime.
Sure thing!

Yeah! Isn't it amazing? He was so happy!
An award...?
Wow! Teruo-san won an award for something!
Pretty impressive!
You really folded it up small!
The person Miiko likes is...
He read it out loud so many times.
.....
Showa Era
for the
trem

"Showa era"...?

He said it was really important...
...so I'm gonna bring it back to him!

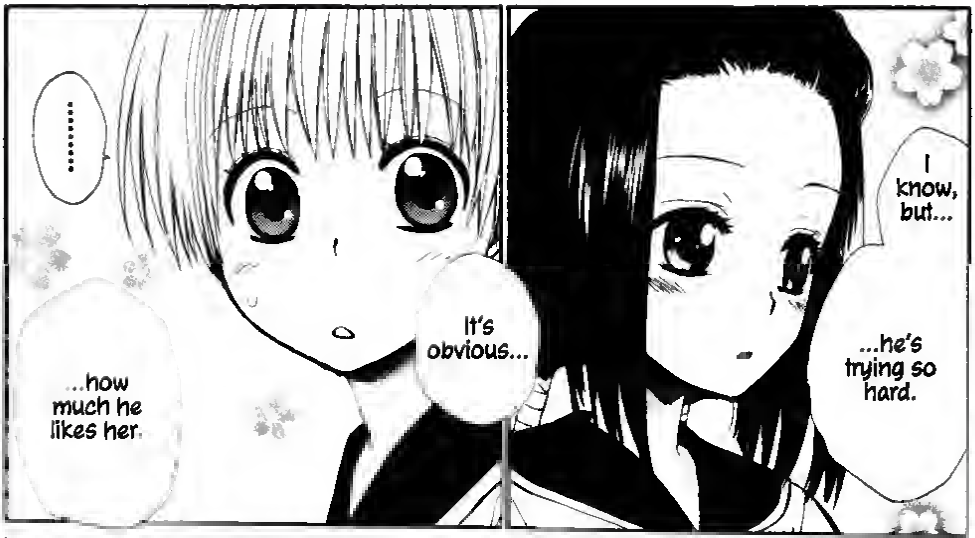
Um...
.....


What year did the Showa era end, again...?
It's the Heisei era now...
Good idea...

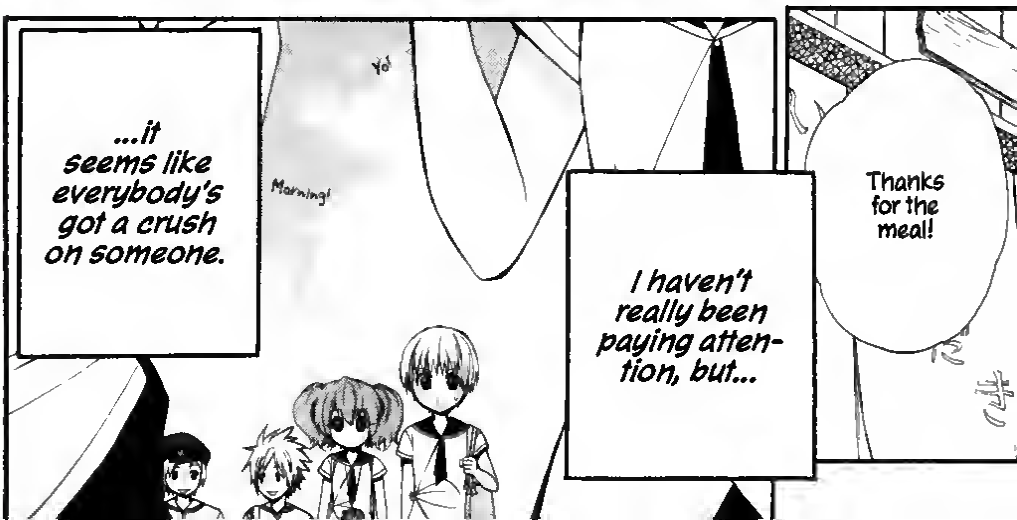
Usually I get mad if you say I'm heavy,
but I promise I won't mind today.
Please just wake up.
Please tell me how cute I am.
Please tell me you love me.

Report.24 Understanding

Breakfast
I can just tell.
How'd you know, Ume-chan?!
Suzuhara-san's in a good mood today, huh?
Maybe it was about Kotaro-kun...
Um, what?
I see... Lucky her!
It's obviously not him!
Huh?!
She dreamed about the person she likes--
Fune!
Don't talk about stuff I told you!
S-sorry.


.....
...how much he likes her.
It's obvious...
I know, but...
...he's trying so hard.

He is, isn't he?
Hmm...
He's really cool.
I-I look up to him.
Y-yes...
But--we sit next to each other--!
.....
You watch him a lot, huh, Ume-chan?


...it seems like everybody's got a crush on someone.
Yo!
Morning!
I haven't really been paying attention, but...
Thanks for the meal!

Can I tell you some more later?
Sure!

Tee hee...
.....

Hey!
Maybe I dreamed about Teruo because I told you about him!

Yeah, she is...
She's so cute.

Kotaro!
Miiko's awfully happy!

Whoa!
Kotaro-kun, can you...
...let go now?
S-Sasuke-kun! What're you doing here?
.....
I saw him standing by himself back at the dorm...
... so I dragged him along!
I saw you and Miiko, and...
... you and Sasuke get along, right?
.....
.....
G-good morning.
Morning.
Well, yeah, but...

I'm making Fukuta-san uncomfortable.
Sorry.
I'll see you later.
You're uncomfortable?
Well...
Um...
There's lots of stuff I want to say to him...
...but I don't know where to start.
Huh?
Want me to talk to him for you?
You can pay me back by getting me some alone time with Miiko!
But I--
It's important to me!
It is...?
...my mind just goes blank.
And when I actually see him in person...

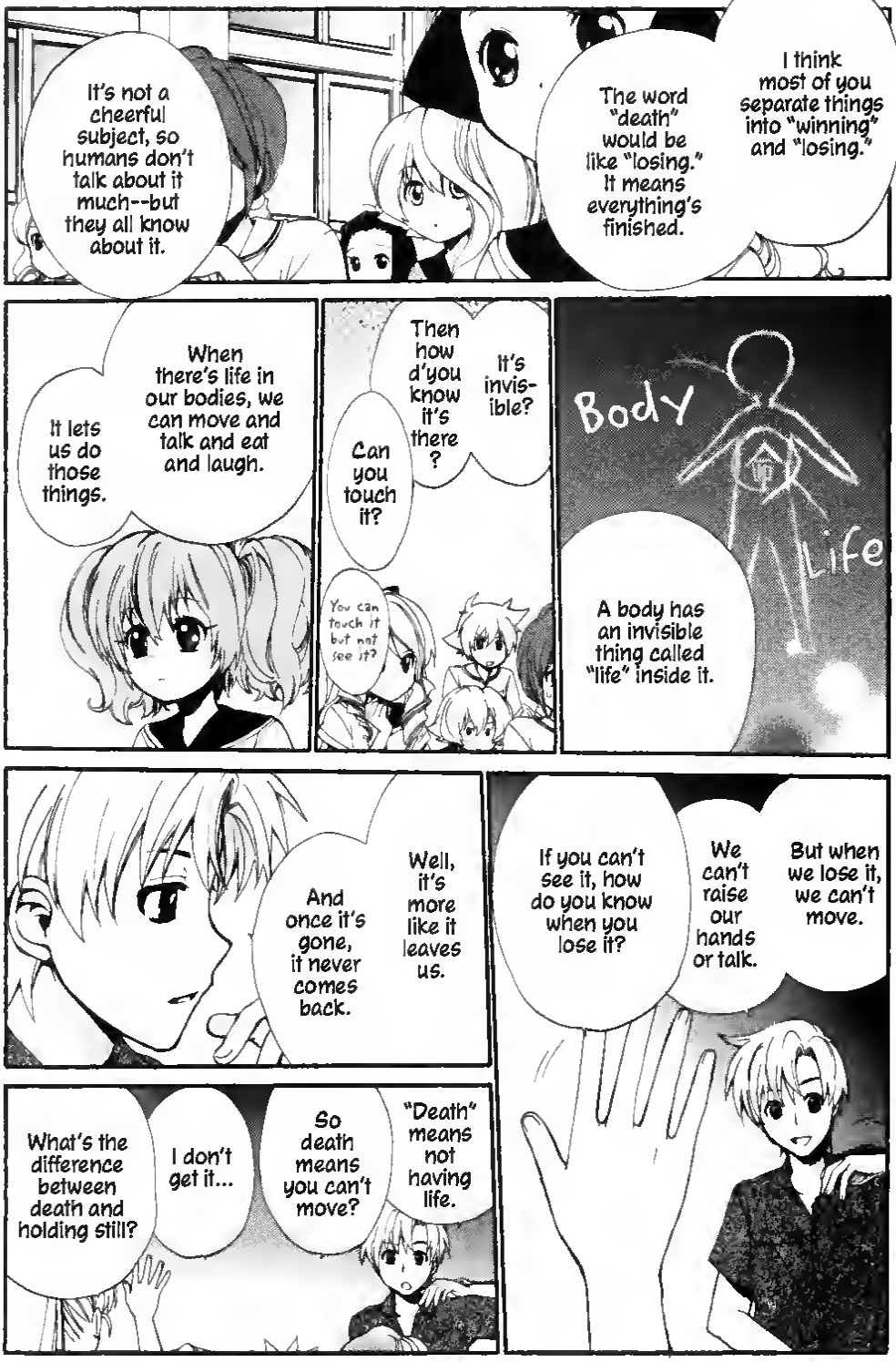
Important, huh...?
"I have Teruo's most important possession in here."
?
I wonder what we're doing in class today?
Sensei said it's a really big deal!
Kotaro wouldn't know anything about the Showa era...
This certificate is awarded to tremendous achievement in Showa, Year 30
White-1
Today we'll be...
Cucumbers and eggplants?
?
でんどん

It's a festival, but it's not a loud celebration.
It's the time when humans honor their ancestors.
You may not understand right away, but...
This is the big deal...?
But I guess I don't know much about it myself...

Obon
...talking about a human festival called Obon. It's in the summer.
Eggplants
Cucumbers

Here.
Can anyone read this word?
KLAK
Death

It's something you need to understand, but it's complicated, so please feel free to raise your hand and ask questions.
Obon
Death
That's where we'll start.
Huh?!
What class is this?!
It says "death."


I think most of you separate things into "winning" and "losing."
The word "death" would be like "losing." It means everything's finished.
It's not a cheerful subject, so humans don't talk about it much--but they all know about it.
When there's life in our bodies, we can move and talk and eat and laugh.
It lets us do those things.
It's invisible?
Then how d'you know it's there?
Can you touch it?
You can touch it but not see it?
Body
Life
A body has an invisible thing called "life" inside it.
Well, it's more like it leaves us.
And once it's gone, it never comes back.
If you can't see it, how do you know when you lose it?
We can't raise our hands or talk.
But when we lose it, we can't move.
"Death" means not having life.
So death means you can't move?
I don't get it...
What's the difference between death and holding still?

When there's life in us, we make sounds.
Like the sound you hear if you hold your wrist to your ear.
?
You can hear it here, too.
You can't hear your own sounds very well, so try it with your friends.
When all of those sounds stop, that means your life is gone...
...and that's death.
Death
I'm sure some of you have seen someone "lose" and stop moving.

When death happens to you, you'll never be able to move again, and you'll never make any more sounds.
Question, Suzuhara?
That's unusual.
Eggplants
Cucumbers

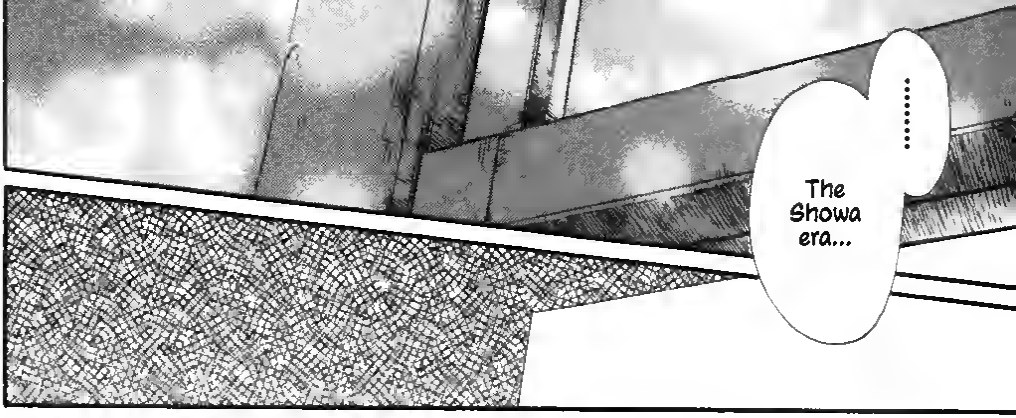
So that means...
...you'll never be able to see somebody again?
They'll never move again?
You can't talk to them anymore?
You can't see them?
Yes, that's right.
Without life you can't move or talk, so it's just like not being there at all.
But humans say that that invisible life comes home once a year...
...during Obon.

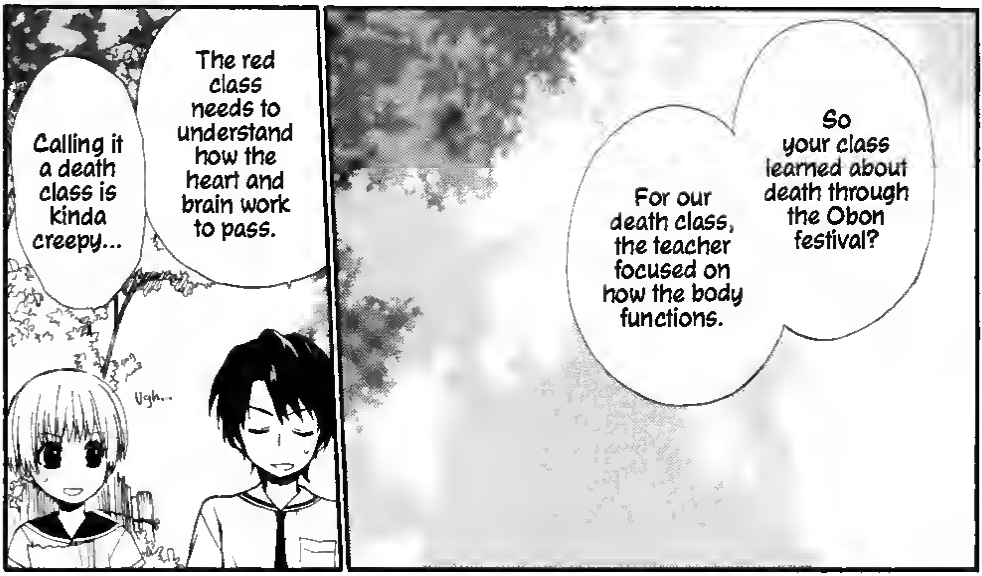
You won't be able to see them, but there are ways to welcome them home.
To where their family and friends are.
Comes home to *where?*
Miiko...?
sniff
sniff
.....

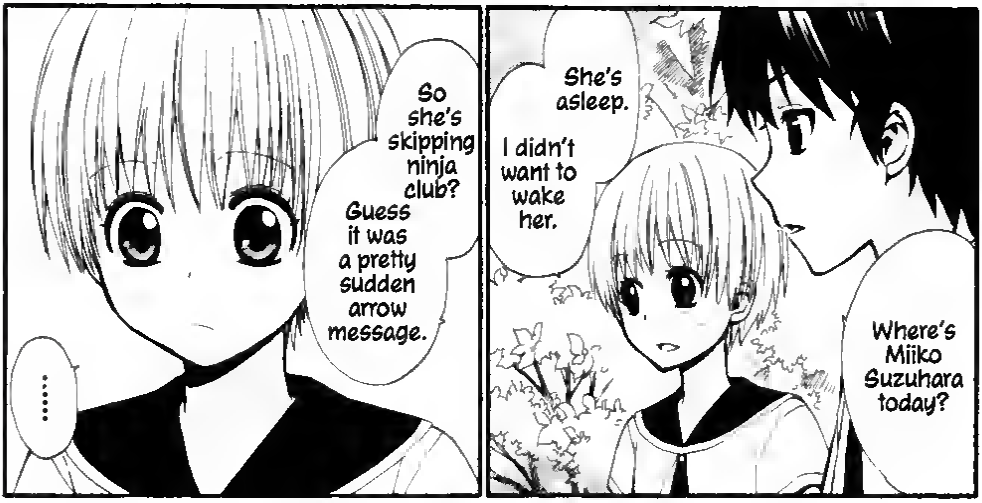
Humans say that life--or "spirits"-- can travel on horses made of cucumbers and cows made of eggplants.
!
Here you go, Fukuta-san.
Thanks!
When did the Showa era end...?
Showa E
Year 3
They... don't know about death.
It's something they need to learn...
How does it feel to not know about it?
But...
...is it really better to know about it?

BUMP
!
Um... Miiko?
Thump thump thump...
Thump thump?
She seems okay...
What's up?
The bell rang...
...and you weren't moving.
Fune, is it okay for me to put this...
...by our window in the dorm?

Sure! I'll set my cucumber out too!
Okay.
How're you feeling?
Sleepy.
I see...
Hey, Miiko...
...is Teruo-san--
Um...
Zzzooo
She wasn't kidding about being tired.


The Showa era...


So your class learned about death through the Obon festival?
For our death class, the teacher focused on how the body functions.
The red class needs to understand how the heart and brain work to pass.
Calling it a death class is kinda creepy...
Ugh...


Where's Miiko Suzuhara today?
She's asleep.
I didn't want to wake her.
So she's skipping ninja club?
Guess it was a pretty sudden arrow message.

Hey, Yusuke-kun...
Do you know when the Showa era ended?
Huh? Oh...
Because of Teruo Suzuhara-san?
?!!
You know him?!
Nah, I peeked.
You were holding that award scroll wide open.
.....
Oops.
We could make a deal.
How's that sound?
Sorry, Miko.
.....
What kind of deal?

I want you to gather info on him.
You're the only one I can trust.
Did you just trip over thin air?
Wh-what the--?
.....
You have to go out with Sasuke!
I want to know why he's at this school.
?
I know I do.
W-well, that's...
Maybe
Don't you wanna know more about him?
Impossible! There's no way!
Keep this between us, but...
Isn't it just because he's stupid like me?
Of course not.
Not said aloud

...during the winter in eighth grade, Sasuke went missing.

He disappeared...?
What does that mean?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ!
ガッ
Aaahhh!!!
Sorry for the wait!
Let's get to work on these veggies so we can cheer up the nameless spirits!
Board
The "nameless" part sounds like a ninja thing, doesn't it?
Here's the knife
Do ninjas and Obon go together..?
Prez... Vice-prez...
People born in the Heisei era are finishing college now.
That was startling
The Showa era lasted 64 years, and the Heisei era started with the new emperor in 1989. The award said "Showa Year 30," so Teruo-san would probably be...
...over 60 years old.
.....
.....
Huh?

Fukuta.
But I didn't agree to it--!
.....
Does that mean the deal's on...?
You bet!
I hear there's something going on between you and Yusuke's brother, Sasuke.
If it's just a rumor, you'd better watch your back.
.....
How...
Wh-wh-wh-wh...
"Wuh"?
Need some water?
How could he?!

But if Sasuke-kun and I were going out...
...it'd be all right, since we're both supposed to be cats.
But ... I'd have to ask him out...?
Oh, Fukuta-san! Supper's ready!
Can you call everyone?
Perfect
Sure thing.
Why am I taking this so seriously...?
It's supper-time.
ガリ ヨン
I don't even know how he feels.
And... what about me?
Super!
Time to eat!
Super...
Carrot
I mean, yeah ...
...I want to learn more about him...
.....

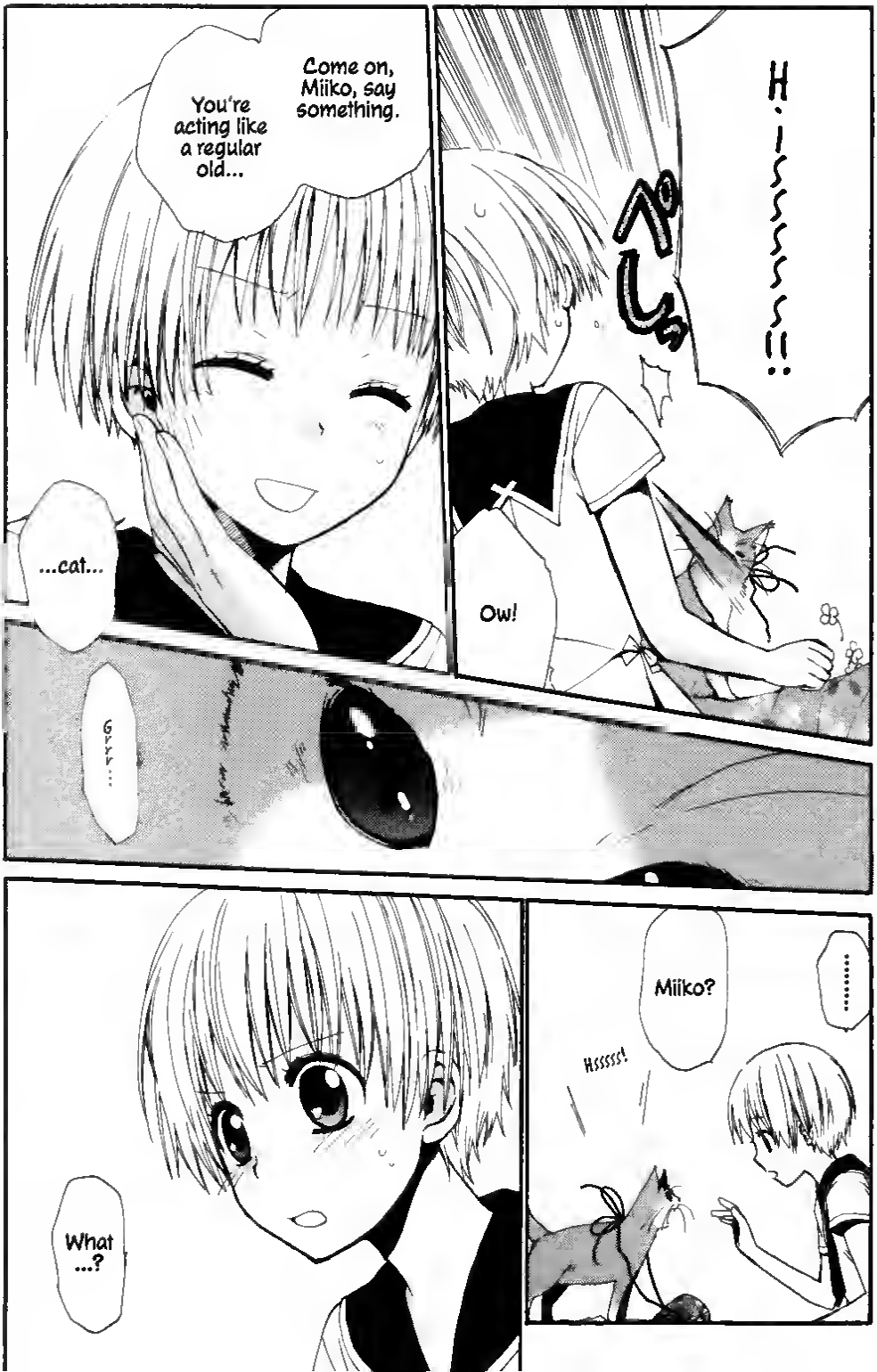
Miiko?
Miiko, I'm back!
It's time to eat.
Wanna wake up?
It's supper-time, Miiko.
Good morning!

Hey!
Wake up!
ZZZ...
Of course, it's actually evening...
Mii--
Come on, Miiko.
Rrrr...
Don't "rrr" me!
Don't complain to me if you're hungry later!
.....

The next day...
...Miiko didn't eat breakfast.
The day after that was the same.
Fukuta!
Maybe the heat's bothering her?
She should take better care of herself, then.
Can't you drag Suzuhara to class? Is she that sick?
No, she's just sleeping.
I think
Fune! Hey, Fune!
What's up, Kotaro?
I have to look out for her.

Can you give these to Miiko?
Four-leaf clovers ...
She might just eat them.
That's okay.
Even if she does...
...they're supposed to make you happy.
.....
Okay, I'll give them to her.
Thanks, Kotaro!
I have to be strong!

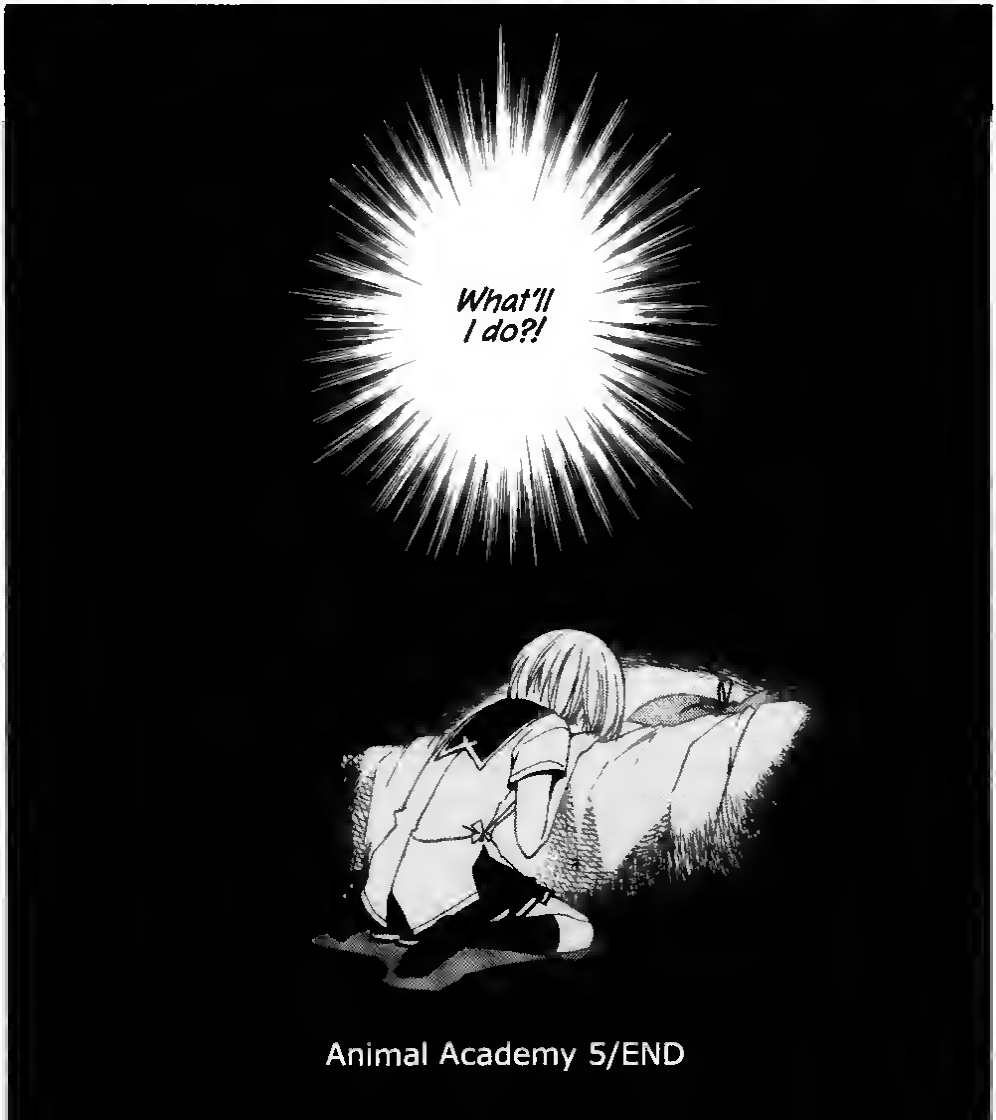
Be strong, me!
I'm back, Miiko!
Still sleeping?
Did you eat anything
I brought you a present.
Do you feel achy anywhere?
You've gotta exercise.
You can't stay in bed all day!
Present
C4
C4
C4
C4
C4
.....


H-hhhhhh!!
Ow!
...cat...
Grrr...
Come on, Miiko, say something.
You're acting like a regular old...
Miiko?
Hssssss!
.....
What ...?

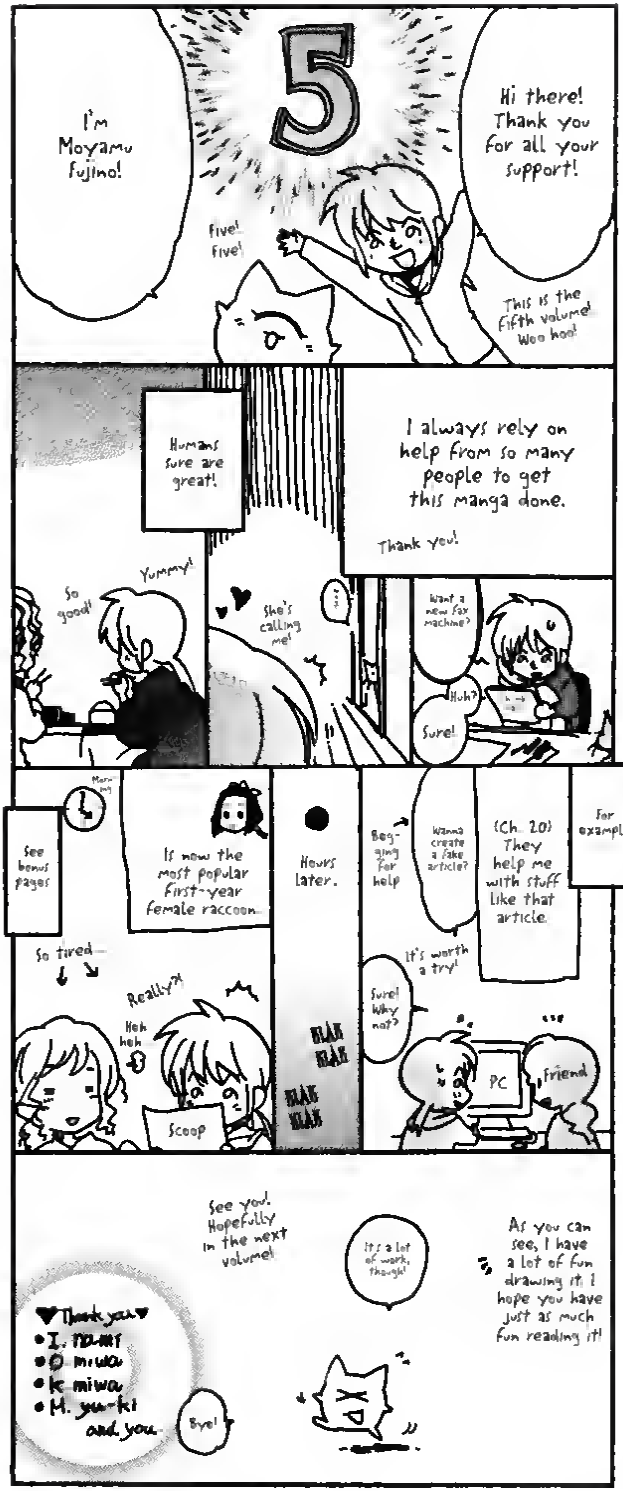
What are you so mad about?!
Talk to me!
Miiko!
ぴょん
Rrr...

ぱたん.
No way...
"I want to be like a normal human."
I just do!
She can't...
Could she be...
.....

Fukuta-san?
.....
ズル…
Oh, Ume-chan...
It's suppertime.
Are you all right?
Uh... Er...
I have a stomach-ache.
So... Oww...
I'm gonna skip supper.
Night!
Um... Good night...
はたん



Animal Academy 5/END


5
I'm Moyamu Fujino!
Hi there! Thank you for all your support!
Five! Five!
This is the fifth volume! Woo hoo!
Humans sure are great!
I always rely on help from so many people to get this manga done.
Thank you!
So good!
Yummy!
She's calling me!
Want a new fax machine?
Huh?
Sure!
See bonus pages
Is now the most popular first-year female raccoon...
Hours later.
So tired—
Really?!
Heh heh
Scoop
BLAH BLAH BLAH
Beg-ging for help
Wanna create a fake article?
(Ch. 20) They help me with stuff like that article.
For example
It's worth a try!
Sure! Why not?
PC
Friend
See you! Hopefully in the next volume!
It's a lot of work, though!
As you can see, I have a lot of fun drawing it. I hope you have just as much fun reading it!
♥Thank you♥
• I. Tomi
• O. miwa
• K. miwa
• M. yuki
and you.
Bye!

Postscript

HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO.5

Manjiro Uesugi

- Monkey
- Third-year student, White Class
- Seat # 2
- Family: Cercopithecidae Species: M. fuscata
- He has a big voice and big mouth. He's the ninja club president, and he's actually pretty smart. He doesn't like it when things are deliberately mysterious. He loves cats.

Who're you?

Silvino Karamatsu

- Snake
- First-year student, White Class
- Seat # 2
- Class: Reptilia Order: Squamata Suborder: Serpentes
- He's talented at transforming, and has learned to appreciate art since starting school. His interests are almost wholly dictated by his interest in art. He likes quiet places.

What's most intriguing is what brought these two together, what actually happened in the art club room? We asked a first-year art club member for a comment, but the only response we got was, "I don't know anything about that! How stupid are you?" But still, the question remains: can two animals who belong to different species have a loving relationship? A senior monkey share perspective on the situation, though, but I've heard it's a tough situation.

In the next volume of...

Miiko's sad past with her beloved Teruo is finally revealed, but to what end? And Neko must struggle with her own feelings for Sasuke-- but will Yusuke's advice help or hurt?